TO BALE OR NOT TO BALE?
WORKSHEET

What does the worksheet do?

This worksheet is a tool to assist in evaluating the economical feasibility of baling recyclables. The worksheet assumes recycling is taking place but no baling is occurring.

Who should use the worksheet?

This worksheet can be very helpful to town and solid waste district officials, solid waste and recycling committees, solid waste operators, and other concerned citizens who are examining their recycling program for the economical feasibility of baling recyclables.

What is the process to use the worksheet?

The user of this worksheet will need access to the costs of operating the present recycling program, along with the estimated costs for the proposed recycling program using the baler. The first section of the worksheet deals with current annual costs to recycle including rental fees for recycling containers, transportation costs for recyclables, and the processing fee for recyclables. In some cases, the facility may not have rental or processing recycling fees, therefore place a zero in the appropriate box. A row has been provided for "**Other**" recycling or baling costs not included in the worksheet.

The second section of this worksheet deals with the costs necessary to add a baler to a facility. Much of this cost may be paid over a period of time or prorated based upon the anticipated life expectancy, for example, the cost of the equipment and building may be paid for by a ten or twenty-year bond, therefore, the cost annually would be the principal and interest paid each year. In some cases, you may already have a facility with a building suitable for housing a baler, therefore that cost would be zero. The same applies to equipment and storage space.

Baling of recyclables reduces the volume and allows for easier handling and a greater amount to be transported. Materials commonly baled are newspaper, mixed paper, office paper, magazines, cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, textiles, HDPE, and PET. The prices for these recyclables can be obtained from a broker. A list of brokers is available on the Department of Environmental Services website at: www.des.state.nh.us/pcas. The revenue received for baled material generally includes the transportation charge and is higher than for material that is sold loose.

How to keep costs low?

- Plan well and know the amounts of materials the facility will be collecting and processing.
- Be involved in the design process and if you're using an engineer, be specific about what you need.
- Design and build a facility that will meet your immediate and future needs. Allow for future expansion but don't overbuild or design a poor layout.
- Run your facility like a business and know your recycling markets.
- Don't work alone. Always try to work with other communities and groups to market recyclables, and to share equipment, storage space, and knowledge.
- Go out to bid for all contracts.

CURRENT ANNUAL RECYCLING INFORMATION	
Rental fees for Recycling Containers	$
Transportation Costs for Recyclables	$
Offsite Processing Fee for Recyclables	$
Other	$
TOTAL COST	$

ADDITION OF BALER COST INFORMATION	
Equipment Costs (annual)	
Baler	$
Skid-steer	$
Storage Trailer(s)	$
Scale to weigh bales	$
Additional Gaylords, etc.	$
Building Cost (annual)	$
Operation & Maintenance Cost	
Baler (1%-5% of baler cost)	$
Electricity	$
Fuel	$
Extra labor	$
Equipment maintenance	$
Building maintenance	$
Other	$
TOTAL COST	$

A comparison of the total costs for your **current recycling program** to the total cost of **adding a baler** will assist in determining the economic feasibility of baling your recyclables.

Note: The worksheet is be used for general information only. Actual costs may differ from the results obtained through the worksheet, depending upon the level of accuracy and inclusion of all costs. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Parker Morgan at (603) 271-5380 or by e-mail at: pmorgan@des.state.nh.us.